

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 WASHINGTON STREET CUMBERLAND, MD 21502



Empowered to love, serve, care, and give

SERVICE OF WORD & SACRAMENT: HOLY COMMUNION
MAY 4, 2025 11:00 AM

GATHERING

OPENING VOLUNTARY

GAVOTTE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

MATTHEW CAMIDGE (1758-1844)

11:00 AM

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

EVERYONE WHO LONGS FOR THE BOUNDLESS LOVE OF GOD
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR
Everyone who longs for the boundless love of God,
Everyone who hopes for the coming of God's peace,
The Lord God who created all things beautiful and good
Loves you more than you can ever fully know.
God is always watching over you,
God is watching you with loving eyes.
God is hearing you in all your prayers;
God is listening with tender, loving ears.
God shines light in every dark and fearful place we go
And will answer every little cry that you make,
So wherever you may go follow in God's holy way
And trust God to take you home.

"EVERYONE WHO LOVES"

* CALL TO WORSHIP & PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.

Lord, our God, we cried out to you, and you have healed us.

Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones, and praise God's holy name.

For God's anger is but for a moment, but God's favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

God, you have turned our mourning into dancing! Hallelujah!

Let us pray -

Selfless Christ, though we rejected your teachings, you poured out your life for us anyway. In your resurrection, you continue to nourish us with your steadfast love and the power of your Spirit. Enliven our hearts, that we might share the nourishment we have received and feed your people. Amen.

* HYMN #518

YOUR ONLY SON

"LAMB OF GOD"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternally patient God, we ask again and again, "What should we do?" And again and again, you tell us, "Repent and return to me." Yet we have not changed our ways. We fall into old habits, cling to our own ways, and take for granted the grace you have given us. Once again, we ask you for forgiveness. Show us the way forward and help us to return, once again, to you. Amen.

(Silence for personal prayer and reflection.)

Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE AND CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

*Please stand and greet those in the pews near you. Send a wave to the camera for those joining online.
We recognize how important we are to each other; we belong to each other and are stronger together.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

PSALM 30

- ¹ I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
- ² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.
- ³ O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- ⁴ Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.
- ⁵ For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
- Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
- ⁶ As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- ⁷ By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.
- ⁸ To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:
- ⁹ "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?"
- ¹⁰ Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"
- ¹¹ You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy
- ¹² so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

ANTHEM

RISE UP, MY LOVE, MY FAIR ONE
THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

HEALY WILLAN (1880-1968)

Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away;
For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear upon the earth;
The time of the singing of birds is come;
Arise my love, my fair one and come away;
Come away. (from Song of Solomon)

SECOND READING

ACTS 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"⁵ He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."⁷ The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one.⁸ Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.⁹ For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.¹⁰ Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord."¹¹ The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying,¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem,¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus,²⁰ and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Please place all tithes and offerings as well as any orange prayer request cards in the offering plate.)

OFFERTORY SOLO

HORNSPIPE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

SAMUEL WESLEY

* DOXOLOGY #716

GOD, WHOSE GIVING KNOWS NO ENDING (Verse 1)

"DA N'ASE"

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER- ECUMENICAL VERSION *(You are welcome to pray the Lord's Prayer with the version most familiar to you.)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

*You are invited to come forward and receive the elements by Intinction (take the bread and dip it in the cup).
There are also individual cups as well as gluten-free crackers available.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Risen God, we give you thanks for your Son, Jesus Christ, and for the new life promised to us by his resurrection. We give you thanks for these gifts of bread and juice and ask that they would be for us fuel for our new life, as we seek to follow Christ into our world, that all might know the beauty of your steadfast love. Amen.

* HYMN# 450

BE THOU MY VISION

"SLANE"

* BENEDICTION

* RESPONSE AFTER BENEDICTION #306

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS (Verse 1)

"DENNIS"

At FPC there is a tradition of joining hands while singing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" to close our service.

You are welcome to do whatever feels comfortable during this time. There is no wrong way to participate in worship!

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.

The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

POSTLUDE

ELLACOMBE
JUDITH BROWN, ORGAN

* When this symbol precedes an element of the service, if you are able, please stand.
Please join in reading or singing those parts of the service printed in **bold**.

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher.....	Rev. Alison Peters
Liturgist.....	Wesley Mason
Director of Music Ministries/Organist/Pianist.....	Judith Brown
Musicians.....	The Sanctuary Choir
Audio/Video Technicians.....	Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
Ushers.....	Cindy Corley and Kathy Dowell
Nursery.....	Jane Belt and Renee Kiddy



WELCOME: A very warm welcome to everyone who comes to worship with us here at First Presbyterian Church! We are proud to be a "Big Tent Church" where everyone is welcome to join us in worshiping and serving our Lord, Jesus Christ. We welcome and encourage worshipers of all races, all women, men, and members of the LGBTQ+ community, all political parties, and all walks of life to join us. We welcome you to worship with us.

WELCOME VISITORS: We are glad you found your way to First Presbyterian Church of Cumberland. For more information about opportunities to worship, learn and serve with us, we encourage you to visit the table outside the church office. You can also learn more about us at www.fpc-cumberland.org and www.facebook.com/First.Pres.Cumberland.

FRIENDSHIP PADS: Please locate and sign the red pad in your pew, tear off the sheet and place it in the collection plate during the offering. This important practice allows us to be mindful of new folks and long-time members as well, and is a good way to learn (or remember) the names of those with whom you are seated. **If you are visitor, please fill out the "Welcome to First Presbyterian Church" card in the pew rack and put it in the offering plate when it comes by during the service.**

PERSONAL LISTENING DEVICES: (amplifiers) are available in the back of the church for use during worship. Please see an usher for assistance.

SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS: Please use the orange prayer request cards, which are located in the back of the sanctuary by the bulletins to share any joys or concerns. Place the card in the offering plate once you have completed your request. The ushers will bring them to the pastor during the offering. The orange prayer request cards are also available in the pew racks.



children 4 years of age and younger!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: You are welcome to bring your child with you to worship. We have "worship bags" in the back of the sanctuary that include materials for drawing and coloring, as well as Bible stories and Bible word-find games. Our "To Families with Young Children" pew card contains information about why young children should be encouraged to come to worship and how parents and others can engage them more fully in worship. **Nursery care is provided during worship for all**

THE PRAY-GROUND is a special space in the sanctuary for our youngest children and their families. All families are welcome to come and sit in the right front pews with their children seated on the rug. This front row seat will allow God's youngest children to participate in the service in a place where they can see and hear best. There will be activities provided so that their little hands are kept busy while participating in worship. "Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it'" (Mark 10:14-15).

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of a friend or loved one. You may specify live or silk flowers.



The flowers in the sanctuary this morning are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of her parents, Kirke and Theresa Davis, by Gail Plitnik.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE
RULING ELDERS: CARL BELT & CINDY CORLEY

ANNUAL GIVING YEAR-TO-DATE:	as of April 27, 2025
Total 2025 Pledges Promised	\$237,796.00
Pre-paid pledges	\$ 48,578.00
2025 Pledge Balance Promised	\$189,217.00
Pledge Balance Received Year-to-Date	\$ 68,159.00
Pledge Balance Promised Year-to-Date	\$ 62,055.00
Over/(Under)	\$ 6,103.00

ONLINE GIVING



**PASTOR'S
SCHEDULE**

Pastor Alison is available when requested or informed of a need. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit or phone call, please call or text her to let her know. *[Fridays are generally her day off and she will respond when she is available.]*

**Ways to contact Pastor Alison: 814-715-
1681/revalisonpeters@gmail.com**

**To help with scheduling,
please reach out to the Church Office:
301-777-3700/ firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com**



MONDAY, MAY (5)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

TUESDAY, MAY (6)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 11:00 AM STAFF MEETING
 7:00 PM BUILDING & GROUNDS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY (7)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 LEARNING TREE MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON
 5:30 PM WORSHIP & MUSIC MEETING
 6:30 PM JOYBELLS REHEARSAL
 7:00 PM NA MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY (8)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
 5:00 PM WEST SIDE HUNTERS CHEER FITTING

FRIDAY, MAY (9)

8:30 AM CHURCH OFFICE OPEN

SATURDAY, MAY (10)

9:00 AM CHURCH SPRING CLEAN UP DAY
 9:30 AM P.E.O. MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY (11)

11:00 AM SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY:
 MOTHER'S DAY
 12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAY SOCIAL



SPRING CLEAN UP DAY: The Building and Grounds Committee invites you to attend the Spring Clean Up Day on Saturday, May 10th from 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM.

LADIES HIGH TEA AT THE COMMUNITY CAFE: Join us for a "proper" High Tea at 127 N. Centre Street on Saturday, May 10th at 2:00 PM. We'll have all the finery from china place settings, to cucumber sandwiches, to scones and more. Suggested donation is \$30 per person. Please RSVP to Rev. Martha at soulspacelumbarland@gmail.com by May 7th. Get those big hats and gloves ready! The event is limited to 30 people so please RSVP soon! A wonderful event to bring your mother or daughters, nieces and friends.